



Agenda

Friday, January 11, 2019 at 9:00am Alaska Pioneer Homes Advisory Board Meeting

Teleconference Call in Conference No: 1 (800) 315-6338, Access code 54784 #

Teleconference guidelines: Please mute your phone unless you are speaking. When speaking, state your name first. Soon after the meeting, be ready to receive a copy of the draft minutes to review and provide input within a short period of time. Thanks.

Public Comment: Public comment will be accepted during the first 15 minutes of the meeting. Please state your name and location before commenting. Thank you.

1. Attendance

Att	Type	First	Last	Location/Title	Representing
	Member	Gordon	Glaser	Anchorage	Alaska Commission on Aging Designee
✓		Bob	Sivertsen		Alaska Commission on Aging representative on behalf of Gordon Glaser
✓	Member, Ch	Rosemary	Hagevig	Douglas	Public
✓	Member	Phil	Hokenson	Fairbanks	Alaska Veterans Advisory Council Designee
✓	Member	Bob	Pawlowski	Anchorage	Public
✓	Member	Brenda	Shelden	Wasilla	Public
	Member	Jana	Shockman	Anchorage	Public
✓	Member	Ronald	Siebels	Anchorage	Public/Restricted/Veterans representative
✓	Member	Gordon	Severson	Anchorage	Public
✓	Division	Clinton	Lasley	Adm Ops Mgr	Central Office
	Division	Emily	Palmer	Soc Svcs Pr Coord	Central Office
✓	Division	Megan	Bauman	Admin Assist I	Central Office
✓	Public	Theresa	Holt	Ombudsman	State of Alaska Long Term Care Ombudsman

2. Call to Order

A. Meeting start time: 10am, 1/11/2019

3. Discussion and approval of minutes from 10/5/2018 and 11/7 – 11/8/2018 meetings.

A. Gordon S. move to approve both, Ron second. No objections, both sets of minutes approved.

4. Declaration and verification of any conflicts of interest.

A. None identified

5. Public Comment:

A. Theresa Holt (Alaska Longterm Care Ombudsman) - Present to listen

6. Unfinished/Old Business

A. Review of November Face to Face Meeting Action Items – Clinton L.

- i. Clinton – Thank you to all of our Advisory Board members, our Face-To-Face meeting in November at the Fairbanks Pioneer Home was the most productive in-person advisory board meeting that I've witnessed in the two years that I've been with the division. Thank you for your time and support!



ii. Clinton –

- a. Action Item #1 ("Obtain price per square foot estimate from Facilities to renovate existing FPH building and to build new"): In process, Clinton
- b. Action Item #2 ("Send out *FPH Renovate vs Rebuild* one-pager and talking points": In process, Megan
- c. Action Item #3 ("Meet with Fairbanks legislative delegates to tour FPH and discuss rebuild vs. renovate") – Completed
 - 1) Rosemary - Clinton and I met with the delegation in December and had a great turn out of both legislators and staff members. Senator Coghill was not in attendance but I ended up running into him on the plane home. He has been following the Pioneer Homes and will meet with me in person once he arrives in Juneau for session. The only legislator that did not have any presence at the event was Senator Bishop, however he confirmed via email that he received the information I sent him. Clint did an outstanding job of presenting the options regarding the FPH building situation and the legislators asked great questions. The Board's ultimate "ask" is to obtain a moderate amount of funds from the legislature to get an initial planning and evaluation study started. I found it very encouraging that I did not hear any negative comments and Representative Wilson seemed open to continuing the conversation (as she is likely to co-chair the Finance Committee, this is definitely an important relationship to continuing to develop).
- d. Action Items #4 & #6 (regarding AVPH roof replacement cost estimates and timelines) – In progress; we now have access to the federal grant program so Josh (AVPH Administrator) and I are beginning the federal grant application paperwork to receive the 65% / 35% federal matching grant. We have been able to confirm that the state does not have to have the 35% matching funds up-front, only the commitment to provide it. The DHSS Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners are all in support.
 - 1) Rosemary – That is wonderful. Thanks to Phil Hokenson for all of the ground work he did to make this possible. As long as I've been on this Board, the AVPH roof has been a major problem so to finally have progress on it is great.
 - 2) Bob P – Clinton, thank you for the roof cost estimate that you sent out after our last meeting, it answered my remaining questions.
- e. Action Item #5 ("Draft a PHAB resolution for building complementary veterans facilities" – In progress, Phil and Clinton
 - 1) Clinton – We initially discussed this as part of the FPH rebuild conversation (the possibility of building a complementary veteran facility at FPH, campus style). It would require looking at the FPH replacement costs per square foot and determine if there was federal veteran construction grant money that we could tap into that would make incorporating a veterans facility feasible. At this point, exact dollar amounts wouldn't be necessary, only confirmation as to whether such a project is actually possible. If it is possible, then it would simply be a



message from the Advisory Board encouraging the state to look at these options if/when a complete rebuild ever comes up.

- 2) Rosemary – This would actually fall under the FPH rebuild vs. renovate feasibility study we are requesting correct?
 - 3) Clinton – Yes.
 - 4) Phil – Thanks for the clarification, Clinton I'll get with you to pursue this.
- f. Action Item #7 ("Develop a PHAB companion AVPH roof replacement resolution + sub-parts A - D") – In progress, Phil
- 1) Part A: Complete
 - 2) Part B (include roof estimate and technical info): Complete
 - 3) Part C (Bob P to meet with Senator Sullivan's office): Complete / on-hold
 - i. Bob P – I have spoken with Verdie Bowens, and they are just waiting on the application that you and Josh are working on
 - 4) Part D (Ron to meet with Senator Murkowski's office): Complete / on-hold
 - i. Ron S – I have made several contact attempts but have been told nothing can be done during the government shut down.
 - ii. Clinton – For right now, we'll just focus on the grant application process now that we have access. Once the application has been submitted we'll have you both reach back out to your contacts at the senator offices and let them know that we need their advocacy for this project.
 - 5) Rosemary – Is there room in this application process to get letters of support from our congressional delegation?
 - 6) Clinton – I don't know.
 - 7) Rosemary – Ok, I think that is something we should keep on the back burner then.
 - 8) Ron S – We need to keep the pressure on the congressional delegates to let them know that we are forgetting about this.
- g. Action Item #8 ("Draft the Board Recommendations") – Complete
- h. Action Item #9("Complete editing updates to the FY18 Board Report and deliver to legislators")- Updates complete, delivery by Board members in process
- 1) Rosemary – We handed out the Board Report to the Fairbanks delegates during the December FPH meeting with them. Megan also sent a copy of the Board Report and the letter to the Governor.
 - 2) Clinton – I have also given Megan approval to get professional, colored copies of the report printed for delivery to the Legislators. Although the Advisory Board's budget has gotten pulled into the overall AKPH budget, I still keep the Board's budget separate. As such, if anyone mentions the costs associated with printing color copies you can assure them it came from the Advisory Board's budget.
 - 3) Rosemary – Who doesn't do color copies anymore??



- 4) Clinton – A year ago we got our hands slapped by Representative Wilson after we stated that we needed more money, but later sent over copies of documents to the legislature. Her response was to question how much money we really needed if we could still afford to spend money on copies. So, in the event that a similar comment comes up again, you can respond that it came from the Advisory Board's budget.
 - 5) Bob P – Will there be copies available for Feb 10th when I am in town to meet with delegates?
 - 6) Megan – Yes. Office Max is printing 60 color copies for us (enough for all senators and representatives) and I'll be picking those up today.
- i. Action Item #10 ("Complete Letter to the Governor") - Complete
 - j. Action Item #11 ("Communicate staffing analysis report edits to Agnew:: Beck") – Complete
 - 1) Clinton – The edits discussed during the November Advisory Board meeting were passed on and the final report has been generated. I will send the Board Members a copy of that report. It is broken out into 3 parts (Part 1 is an overview of the recommendations, Part 2 goes into the details of the recommendations and Part 3 is an appendix.). Part 1 (the summary recommendation overview) is the only portion we are going to make public, as we feel the highly in-depth breakdown covered in Part 2 would be easily confusing to folks and lead to numerous, unproductive questions.
 - 2) Rosemary – Has OMB received this report?
 - 3) Clinton – No, I have not sent this out to anyone.
 - 4) Rosemary – That seems like a useful tool to have for when OMB questions us about staffing.
 - 5) Clinton – I haven't sent it out but it's possible the Commissioner or Deputy Commissioner sent it over.
 - k. Action Item #12 ("Six month update on staffing analysis recommendations implementation") – To be completed at the beginning of FY20 (likely during the July Advisory Board meeting)
 - l. Action Item #13 ("Documents to complete") – Complete
 - m. Action Item #14 ("Obtain FPH Foundation president contact information") – Complete
 - n. Action Item #15 ("Research data on national and local stats regarding staff and resident injuries during transfers with and without lifts") – To be completed by new AOM once hired

B. Review of Strategic Issues from 2018 – Clinton L.

- i. To be discussed during the Director Report and AOM Report

7. New Business

- A. Review of 2018 Advisory Board Meeting Schedule – Rosemary H.



- i. Rosemary – The new Boards and Commissions Director sent out a request to receive a copy of everyone's 2019 meeting schedule (as she will attempt to attend those she can). As such, we developed a flexible meeting schedule that can be adjusted as needed. Our new baseline meeting schedule will be every other month at 9am on the second Friday of every other month starting Jan 2019. Is everyone in agreement?
- ii. Brenda – I may be in Juneau on March 8th so I may call-in from there or come into the central office if my schedule allows.
- iii. All – Yes.

B. Agenda requests for next meeting?

- i. None at this time

8. Reports

A. Division Director's Report – Clinton L

- i. Clinton – The DHSS leadership structure has changed with the new administration, Jon Sherwood was not retained as the Deputy Commissioner for Medicaid & Health Care Policy, Donna Steward has taken his place. Our division has also been reassigned – we are now reporting to the Deputy Commissioner of Family, Community & Integrated Services (Mr. Al Wall) to be with the other 24 hr. facility divisions. This is a positive move for us as Mr. Wall has a good sense of the Pioneer Homes and what we do. One of our big "asks" for FY20 was to look at contracting out the hospitality services of the other 5 homes (to match what we've been doing at JPH for the last 30 years). I received confirmation this morning that the Commissioner is still in support, as in 2016 it was legislative intent for us to look into this as a cost efficiency option. Some of you may remember that we attempted to put out a Request for Bid last year when the LTC contract was due for renewal but the Commissioner pulled back support after receiving negative feedback from the union. This year we are going to try "Request for Information" instead, which should still provide us the cost efficiency data we need, hopefully without ruffling as many feathers. For last 2 years, Representative Wilson has been asking if we are going to do this, so this should help put us in good standing. I do think this is the right thing to do, as exploring all cost efficiencies are our responsibility. I have run the numbers several times with the information that I have, and as of this morning it's possible there is at \$1.4 M savings in contracting out those services. The "Request for Information" will go out by Feb 1, 2019, which should help us as we go into session.
- ii. Clinton - I was holding the AOM position vacant until the new administration took shape, and we have started recruiting. We received lots of applicants, and will start interviewing next week with the hope of having someone in place by the first week in February to help manage the flood of requests that come during legislative session.
- iii. Clinton - The staffing analysis report was finalized end at the end of November and I flew to each of the Homes to review the recommendations and discuss how we were going to implement them. The report was broken down into three phases: Phase 1 - continuing the current 95% home occupancy rate in the most effective manner (i.e. Status Quo); Phase 2 – the most effective staffing set-up to achieve full 100% capacity at each home; and Phase 3 – staff recommendations for expanding services to meet community needs (implementing complex neighborhoods, etc.). 3 (thinking outside the box model).



- iv. Clinton – Staffing issues: We’ve been in the process of transitioning all of our C.N.A positions to be C.N.A/ALA to help address the major recruitment issues we’ve been experiencing due to the highly competitive C.N.A. job pool. We started the project with FPH because they had the greatest need (15 vacant C.N.A positions), and in the last 1.5 months we’ve been able to hire 7 new ALAs, so this project has been tremendously helpful. The Nursing study report being conducted by Classifications should be coming out in the next week or so. Theoretically that should help us to be more competitive in nursing field, and the pay increase should be in place by mid-February.
 - v. Clinton - We have been working hard to prepare for legislative session and be in a good place to be looked at favorably during the budget cuts. We have to be prepared to advocate for the Pioneer Homes and get the people behind us if we start seeing drastic budget recommendations aimed at us.
 - vi. Rosemary – Can you give us a 60 sec update on the complex behavior neighborhood at APH?
 - vii. Clinton – The complex behavior workgroup has met several times and we’ll be having another meeting next week. It’s a slow process as we still need to get the building’s zoning transitioned with the city from residential to an assisted living facility. I spoke yesterday with our State facility office and their request for contractor proposals regarding the APH occupancy update project will close next week, so hopefully that ball can get rolling soon. It looks favorable that we can get the entire south building (all 5 floors) transitioned to an “I-1” occupancy, which would be tremendous.
 - viii. Theresa Holt – Once we get over this building hurdle it will go a lot faster. We have all the right folks at the table and I’m excited for this project to be able to help these elders with complex behaviors.
 - ix. Rosemary – Thankful for Nancy Burke with the Municipality of Anchorage.
 - x. Rosemary – Is re-zoning something that can be decided by the staff in the city or does it have to go to the Planning Commission?
 - xi. Clinton – It sounds like it can be decided by staff.
- B. Administrative Operation Manager’s Budget Report, Budget updates - Clinton L.
- i. Clinton - Last year was first year we didn’t run a budget deficit and this year we are on track do the same. We don’t know anything for FY20, as this budget session was done differently. With the new administration, we are not being pulled into the budget discussions, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) is making all the decisions; after the directors submitted our recommendations for how we could find cost efficiencies in our divisions, we have not heard anything else. Our recommended cost savings including looking into contracting out hospitality services, finally increasing our monthly rates to match the costs of our services, and giving up some of the spending authority that we have never been able to earn anyway. All in all, those steps will help us earn more and show that we are working to decrease the cost to the state (about \$3M in savings).
 - ii. Rosemary – Will the increase in rates due to the changes we made in Palmer be on that list?
 - iii. Clinton – No, that is reflected in the FY19 budget.
- C. Alaska Veterans Advisory Council Report- Phil H.



- i. Phil – Clinton will be assisting me in bringing the Alaska Veterans and Advisory Council fully up to speed regarding the AVPH roof needs to help them prepare for their AVPH roof resolution meeting with legislators (January 21st).
- ii. Phil – I put together a summary of the Veterans Aid and Attendance program (one of our pension programs) and how it might work for the AKPH veterans. It's a difficult program for individual veterans to understand and access, but hopefully we could get support from the veterans support organizations. Verdine Bowens with Senator Sullivan's office has already offered support. I will send Megan a copy of the summary to forward out to the rest of the board. This might be a useful program that we combine with the funding we receive from the VA to assist the veterans in the Pioneer Homes, so any insight or ideas the board may have on the summary sheet would be greatly appreciated.

D. Board Chairman's Report – Rosemary H.

- i. Rosemary – Aside from the successful December Fairbanks legislator meeting, I also attended the ACOA meeting in preparation for their meeting with legislators. Two of their three primary items to discuss with the legislators were general and could align well with the AKPH. However, I do have to tell this board that I disagreed strongly with their third item. They want to ask for a new Advisory Board (in support of care givers). While support of care givers is incredibly important, in the face of the OMB looking to cut boards and commissions in their pursuit of achieving the \$1.6 B budget cut, I thought this would be a very bad time to come forward with this. It appears that the AARP is the driving force for this request. ACOA decided to hold this item, so we'll see what happens. ACOA also wants to put together a "Lunch and Learn" for each senior support organization to present their priorities while in Juneau for session. As I sit on both the ACOA and the AKPH boards and I have obligations to both, I wanted this board to be made aware and to hear any questions or observations you might have on this.
- ii. Ron- I may be wrong, but I personally feel that putting another board up is not effective. If they have a problem they need to work through the existing board and not set up another one.
- iii. Rosemary – Considering that AARP is the driving force behind this (as a directive from their national D.C. office) I understand where they are coming, and who they have to report to, but I fear they may be a little short sighted on this one.
- iv. Rosemary – Any other feedback? I'll keep you updated, if a Lunch and Learn does happen in the 2nd^d week of February, you'll be the first to know (as I understand it has to be sponsored by a legislator).

9. Chair's request for comments:

- A. Bob S (ACOA rep): It's nice to hear everyone's voices again and I'm pleased to hear the direction the Board is taking for support of the Homes in the new administration atmosphere. Regarding the ACOA, the largest priority on their list is developing the Alaska state plan for 2020 – 2023 (target completion date is May, with review and approval in June). This is important as Alaska must have an approved plan to receive federal funding for non-Medicaid senior programs. Part of doing this has been hosting 7 "Elderly Listening Sessions" around the state to listen to the needs facing the elderly. We also conducted a senior surveys (3,000 responses received) and senior provider surveys (126 responses received). Issues including finding in-home senior care services, locating assisted living/long term care facilities, etc. There is a real issue across the state of work force development and staffing needs for providers. The



quarterly meeting reports are posted on the ACOA website that you can reference for more information.

- B. Bob P: I'll be in Juneau February 10th – 13th and will be meeting with several legislators while I'm there.
- C. Gordon S.: Happy New Year and commend Clinton and Rosemary for being on top of everything so well in preparation for the new legislative session.
- D. Jana: N/A
- E. Ron: No
- F. Phil: No
- G. Brenda: No

10. Review of meeting action items – Megan B.

- A. Megan to re-send the proposed FPH rebuild vs. renovation one-pager to the board
- B. Clinton to send Board Members + Bob S. the final copy of the Agnew::Beck staffing analysis report
- C. Phil to send Megan the Aid and Attendance program handouts to forward out to the rest of the board members for input

11. Chair's Closing statement – Rosemary H.

- A. Rosemary - My goal is to get some of the annual reports circulating to some of the legislators before the big rush in first part of February.
- B. Bob – I second that recommendation, Rosemary, as being a staffer before this it is incredibly helpful to get that information to them before then so you're not lost in the mix.
- C. Rosemary – I'll talk with Megan to start a list for tracking which board members will be in Juneau before the big February meeting and which legislators they will be talking to/handing out board reports to. Having legislators hear from their own constituents about these AKPH items is the most effective way to go.
- D. Bob S – I have spoken to Senator Stedman and Representative Orteza about the needs of seniors and the Pioneer Homes specifically, so they are both up to speed on the concerns and the needs of our elder population. When I am in Juneau Feb 10 – 13th as the Ketchikan Mayor, what is the one Pioneer Home message that I can advocate for while I'm at it (as I'm meeting with the Governor and Lt. Governor)?
- E. Rosemary – Thank you Bob. Survival of the system is definitely the largest one (though I'm not concerned that would be in jeopardy). Aside from that, getting funding for a study to address the FPH renovation vs rebuild of the facility and securing the 35% state funding for the 65% matching federal grant for the AVPH roof.
- F. Clinton – Bob S, I'll send you the A::B staffing report to help.
- G. Bob S – Clinton, who has to review and approve connecting the AKPH monthly rates to a cost of living calculator (like social security, etc.)?
- H. Clinton – All regulations changes must go through the Lt. Governor office, and my staff have already had initial conversations with his office. We are asking for a pretty drastic rate increase for Level III, and the creation of a Level IV - as we cannot continue to offer those services without charging the actual cost of them. This will make us hugely unpopular but we have to do it.



- I. Rosemary – How big is drastic?
- J. Clinton – About 50%. We are on the cusp of being a skilled nursing facility and we're staffed accordingly, however, the staffing analysis has shown that it is costing us \$170,000 a year to provide Level III services for a single person, but we're only charging \$84,000 a year. Starting last year we started requiring new residents to provide financial data and after seeing that numerous people have the liquid assets to pay for the services, it isn't sustainable and it's not fair to undercharge and ask the state to subsidize money that people can pay themselves. These rate increase won't affect people who genuinely can't pay, as we will still have the protective net of Payment Assistance to cover them. However, it will require those who genuinely can pay to pay for the actual cost of the services they are receiving.
- K. Rosemary – I agree. What's your timeline on this as it sounds like we'll need to be prepared to field questions about this.
- L. Clinton – We're putting the package together now, so expect it to be done in 1 –1 ½ months (March-ish). I'm putting together a write up of this proposal to brief the board via email next week.
- M. Bob – Clinton, we appreciate that. The more we know the better we can advocate with our legislators for you.
- N. Clinton – I haven't mentioned anything, even internally, because I needed to make sure we actually had Department support to go through with it.
- O. Clinton – If we had one message from the division, I would say that we are doing our part to maximize our funding sources to reduce the total cost to the state while continuing to fill our role in the continuum of care (a safety net for many) to the best of our ability.
- P. Clinton – It might be a good idea to have a brief conference call once I have the final numbers for the rate package.
- Q. Rosemary – Everyone in agreement?
- R. All - Yes

12. Adjourn

- A. Motion to adjourn by Bob P., Gordon S. seconds.
- B. Meeting adjourned at 10:29am.

Distribution via email:

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